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Sec. Vance Says Soviets Show Interest In Missile Talks

Deputy Secretary of Defense Cyrus R. Vance has disclosed that communications have been established "at a high level" between the United States and Soviet Union regarding negotiations on the anti-ballistic missile.

He said there are indications the Soviet Union is interested in discussing the anti-ballistic missile subject.

Even though there is talk about getting negotiations started, Secretary Vance noted, "We do know that there is considerable evidence that they are proceeding with the construction of an anti-missile system around Moscow."

Added assurance of U. S. capabilities was explained by the secretary as he emphasized: "We are capable of overwhelming any system that the Soviet Union might deploy. We have been working on devices to penetrate any such systems for a long while, and we are completely confident we can penetrate any system which they may deploy."

As for U. S. progress in the anti-missile field, Secretary Vance said, "We at the same time are proceeding with a very vigorous research and development program that runs approximately $.5-billion a year."

Fixed-Wing Aircraft Losses In Vietnam Placed at 1,172

U. S. fixed-wing aircraft losses in Vietnam for six years, ending Jan. 31, 1967, have been placed at 1,172 by DOD in an announcement clarifying reporting procedures.

The fixed-wing losses are reported in two categories. The first deals with combat-type aircraft lost to hostile action while flying missions over North or South Vietnam.

Most news inquiries have dealt with this category and regular announcements have been made concerning the number of losses. These losses are placed at 622.

The second category concerns combat-type aircraft lost to non-hostile action, support aircraft losses and all other fixed-wing aircraft losses connected with the war. This figure is 550.

TALON'S ONE MILLIONTH HOUR—Lt. Gen. Sam Maddux Jr. (left), commander Air Training Command, signs off the one millionth hour in the supersonic T-38 Talon jet trainer after the history-making flight with Col. W. E. Davis Jr., Randolph AFB commander. The Talon has replaced the subsonic T-33 jet trainer which has been phased out of Air Force training operations.

First Assignment of WAFs To Vietnam Duty Scheduled

The first assignment of Women in the Air Force (WAF) to duties in Vietnam will occur within the next 30-90 days, following a request from Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, headquarters in Saigon.

A WAF officer and nine enlisted women will be the first assigned to MACV with others to follow as billeting and specialties become vacant.

Col. Jeanne Holm, WAF director, made the disclosure after return from a two-week tour of Southeast Asia installations, including Vietnam.

WAF assigned to Vietnam will be primarily in the clerical, stenographic, personnel and data processing specialties.

Col. Holm said enlisted WAF being assigned to Vietnam will be A1C and above. Assignments will be made on a voluntary basis.

The WAF director said it is also possible that WAF will be assigned other areas in Southeast Asia.

Because of climatic conditions, Col. Holm said new uniform apparel is being recommended for WAF assigned to Southeast Asia.

Washington Memos

BASE CLOSURE ACTION affecting 14 U. S. Army Corps is scheduled for completion by December 1968. Inactivation of corps headquarters and transfer of functions to five U. S. Army headquarters was announced Jan. 18, 1967. This action requires no change in USAR units, and assignments of active Army personnel to USAR unit advisor duty will not be affected.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON has designated March as Red Cross Month. In a memorandum to executive department and agency heads, the President urged all federal civilian employees and members of the Armed Forces to support the Red Cross to "the fullest extent possible consistent with the local situation."

RADM JOHN M. LEE has been nominated for vice admiral and assigned as Vice Director, International Military Staff, Military Committee, North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Adm. Lee has served as Deputy U. S. Representative, NATO Military Committee, Washington, D.C., since August 1966.

ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF has approved cadet exchange program designed to develop closer ties with selected Latin American countries. U. S. Military Academy-Latin American Military Academy exchange program provides for visits allowing interchange in wide range of subjects. Another goal is stronger bonds of friendship between future U. S. military leaders and those in selected Latin American nations.

NAVY-WIDE EXAMS for E-8, E-9 promotion will be conducted May 23. Terminal eligibility date is Jan. 16, 1968. Candidates are urged to become familiar with NAVPERS 15989 content. The manual will be available in February.

SEVERAL ORGANIZATIONAL changes at Headquarters Air Force Systems Command, Andrews AFB, Md., have been announced by Gen. James Ferguson, Systems Command commander. Chief among the changes are the creation of a new Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations; DCS for Foreign Technology redesignated DCS for Intelligence; DCS/Plans redesignated DCS/Development Plans, and Office of Headquarters Commandant established as a special staff office.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND Space Administration has awarded 24 supplementary or new research grants and contracts totalling $1.8 million to 19 universities, colleges and private research institutions across the nation.

A SERIES OF EXPERIMENTAL dives by deep sea research submarine Aluminaut has proved such craft are capable of effectively performing undersea oceanographic surveys, according to U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office. Scientists from Naval Electronics Laboratory and Lamont Geological Observatory participated in the five dives of 1,000 feet in depth for 10 hours duration.

IN CHANGE OF COMMAND ceremonies at U.S. Naval Support Activity, Da Nang, RVN, RAdm. Paul L. Lacy Jr., relieved RAdm. Thomas R. Weschler, who had served as commander of the Support Activity since February 1966. Admiral Lacy reported to Da Nang from his post as Deputy Director of Naval Weapons in Washington. Admiral Weschler's new assignment will be with Navy Department in Washington.

AIR FORCE OFFICE of Aerospace Research has announced that a 200-ton solar vacuum telescope designed to better safeguard men and equipment in space against deadly proton showers is on schedule in construction at Sacramento Peak Observatory near Sunspot, N.M. Costing $3.3 million, the 328-foot telescope—most of which is underground—is scheduled for completion in 1968.

MAJOR ARMY COMMANDERS have received temporary enlisted promotion quotas for February. Breakdown, by grade, is 108 E-9s; 448 E-8s; 1,894 E-7s; 3,615 E-6s; 17,410 E-5s; and 67,312 E-4s. Only decreases from last month's post Korean War high are in authorizations to E-4 and E-5.

ONE HUNDRED AND fifty-two colleges and universities will participate in National Aeronautics and Space Administration's graduate training program during 1967-68 academic year. In September 1967, 3,370 graduate students will receive support under this program, including 764 students who will begin work toward their doctoral degrees in space-related subjects.

AN ARMY MAJOR in Vietnam is first to receive Tudor Award for academic achievement in military engineering. He is Maj. Harry C. Goodson III, Operations Officer, 19th Engineer Bn (Combat), 45th Engr Gp. Award will be presented annually to honor graduate of Engineer Officer Career Course who attains highest grade average during year.

ARMY STILL FACES critical shortage of warrant officers MOS 561A, master or mate, and MOS 562A, marine engineering technician. Vigorous command support is called for to identify and encourage qualified personnel to apply for appointment.

AIR UNIVERSITY'S AIR Force Chaplain School graduated 25 students from first Senior Chaplain Course at Maxwell AFB, Ala. Chaplains who attended the school were nominated by the Chief of Chaplains Office. The 25 lieutenant colonels represent nine major Air Force commands.

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AF Secretary Details Effect Of Bombing in North Vietnam

Bombing of targets in the North has limited North Vietnamese and Viet Cong operations in the South, Secretary of the Air Force Harold Brown said on return from his second visit to Southeast Asia since assuming the post in October 1965.

The bombing has limited them militarily, Mr. Brown said, pointing out that otherwise they would have been able to infiltrate larger amounts of men and equipment. He credited this limitation to Air Force and Navy interdiction efforts.

He noted that the Air Force did not drop all ordnance programmed for last year and there is no problem as to the amount of ordnance available.

"Pilots are thoroughly briefed before each mission on the rules of engagement," Mr. Brown said, "and they strike military targets with a great deal of accuracy."

About 250 in-country attack sorties are flown each day by Air Force tactical fighters, and U.S. Marines and Vietnamese Air Force provide an additional 200 a day. Additional sorties are flown by Strategic Air Command B-52 bombers.

Winners Named in Freedoms Foundation 18th Annual Letter-Writing Contest

Woman Army Corps SP5 Carol A. Howland of Fort Dix, N.J., is the first servicewoman to win the top award in the annual Freedoms Foundation "Defender of Freedom" letter competition for military personnel.

The WAC's letter, which won her a $1,000 and an encased George Washington Honor Medal, was judged to have best exemplified this year's theme, "Defending Freedom Safeguards America," and an answer "to those who oppose our position in Vietnam."

Specialist Howland, along with nine other service winners, will receive her award at the 18th annual Freedoms Foundation's award ceremonies at Valley Forge, Pa., on Feb. 22.

The nine other service personnel who won $100 and the George Washington Honor Medal are:

Army—Capt. Richard Wennberg, APO New York, N.Y., and 2nd Lt. Thomas Whittle, APO New York, N.Y.

Navy—RD1 John S. Parker, FPO New York, N.Y., and Lcdr Maynard L. Sisler, Corpus Christi, Tex.

Air Force—Lt. Col. Everette G. Hopson, Maxwell AFB, Ala., A1C Marcel J. Warner, Ent AFB, Colo., and Maj. Walter J. Kane, Brookley AFB, Ala.

Marine Corps—Pfc. Johnnie B. Walker, Norfolk, Va.

Coast Guard—JO2 Robert F. Reilly, Long Beach, Calif.

SEABEE TOUR—RAdm. A. C. Husband, Chief of Naval Civil Engineers (left), Cdr. B. L. Saravia, CO of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 40 (center), and RAdm. P. E. Seufer, Deputy Commander Naval Facilities Engineering Command for Southeast Asia, arrive at Chu Lai during a tour of eight naval mobile construction (Seabee) battalions presently stationed in Southeast Asia.

SecDef Announces Project Themis, New Scientific Research Program

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara has announced a new DOD research program, Project Themis, which will be university-based at selected academic institutions throughout the country.

The program is designed to strengthen scientific and engineering capabilities of those selected and to let a larger number carry out high-quality research on problems relating to national defense.

Project is in response to President Johnson's request that each Federal agency help to develop new centers of excellence in areas relevant to agency goals.

"We expect to initiate up to 50 new departmental centers this year and additional programs will be established in the following years," Secretary McNamara said. Some $20 million has been authorized on the project this year.

More than one specific research program can be authorized for a single institution. First consideration will be given to those not already heavily engaged in defense research.

Ninety problems needing research in specific science and technology areas have been identified where development of additional university graduate research at the doctoral level could contribute significantly to long-range security.

Copies of the Project Themis brochure may be obtained by request to Director of Defense Research and Engineering, The Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20301.

Marine Fire Team Leader Wins Posthumous Award Of Medal of Honor

The Medal of Honor was presented posthumously to Lance Corporal Joe C. Paul, Company H, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, at Feb. 7 ceremonies, Marine Barracks, Washington, D. C.

Cpl. Paul was cited for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life beyond the call of duty as a fire team leader during Operation Starlite near Chu Lai, August 18, 1965.

The hero's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Callie E. Paul, Vandalia, Ohio, received the award from Navy Undersecretary Robert H. B. Baldwin, who acted in the name of the President and on behalf of Congress.

Cpl. Paul disregarded his own safety and dashed across rice paddies swept by enemy fire to place himself between the enemy and his wounded comrades.

Although critically wounded, he remained in his exposed position and continued to fire his automatic weapon. His action diverted the enemy attack and is credited with saving the lives of his fellow Marines.

Distinguished Service Award Presented to Sec. Sylvester

The Department of Defense Distinguished Public Service Medal has been awarded to Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs Arthur Sylvester for "devoted and distinguished" service from January 1961 to February 1967.

Defense Secretary McNamara, in presenting the award, said, in part, "under his professional guidance and leadership, the Department's Office of Public Affairs and the public affairs organization of the unified and specified commands throughout the world were reorganized and strengthened."

Mr. Sylvester spent his last official day at the Pentagon Feb. 3.

BATON ROUGE AWARDS—Lt. Col. Warner S. Goodwin, USA, commander of the 1st Bn, 18th Infantry "Swamp Rats," displays the awards he earned during Operation Baton Rouge. He received the Legion of Merit, the Air Medal, the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Silver Star.

Marine Corps Brings Back 'Battlefield Commissions'

Marine Corps personnel who demonstrate outstanding leadership in the Vietnam conflict may be eligible for temporary appointment to second lieutenant under a recently revived "battlefield commission" program.

According to Marine Corps order 1421.7, exceptional performance of duty in combat is defined to mean "outstanding combat leadership while under fire."

Personnel nominated for appointment to second lieutenant must be U.S. citizens, 20 years old but not past 37th birthday by the end of the fiscal year in which recommended; have a minimum GCT or AA of 110; must not have been convicted by court-martial, or by civil authorities, or the subject of an offense which involves moral turpitude, or an offense for which the maximum penalty includes death, dishonorable discharge or confinement in excess of one year, and be of "unquestionable moral integrity and of commissioned officer caliber."

'Working Conference' On Dependent Schools Held in Washington

Top administrators from the Armed Forces' Dependent School System held a "working conference" in Washington Feb. 8-9 to iron out a wide range of professional problems.

One major objective was to work out logistical problems dealing with the single manager concept that has been in force for school supervisors since 1964.

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Education Dr. Nathan Brodsky keynoted the meeting.

Also appearing at the Washington educational meet were these officials and their top staffers: Dr. Anthony Cardinale, DOD; Mr. Charles McDaniel, TAGO (Army); Dr. Joseph Mason, European Area (Army); Dr. Clarence Anderson, Atlantic Area (Navy); Dr. Eugene Ferraro, Air Force Manpower; and Mr. Richard Meyering, Pacific Area (Air Force).

Navy Sealab Program Enters Third Phase

The third phase of the Navy's Man-in-the-Sea program—Sealab III—is underway off California's San Clemente Island. The program involves a wide range of experiments in salvage techniques, oceanographic and marine biological research and a series of physiological and human performance tests.

One of the highlights is an attempt to live and work on the bottom of the sea for 60 days.

The prime Navy interest is using the continental shelf for assistance in military operations such as mine defense and amphibious assaults.

But the Navy points out that the technology gained also holds vast secondary gains for the nation. These include exploitation of the sea for food, minerals and recreation.

The Navy plans to use five divine teams of eight men each to occupy the Sealab III for alternate 12-day periods.

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